

**From:** [Waack, Elton](#)  
**To:** [ETF SMB Board Feedback](#)  
**Subject:** WEA Trust and Mayo Clinics  
**Date:** Friday, July 8, 2022 4:29:20 PM

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I am a retiree living in Chetek. I am very concerned that WEA Trust's decision to stop offering health insurance will impact my being able to continue to have health care provided by the Mayo Health System. I see in the Board agenda for the 6/22/2022 meeting that the loss of WEA Trust was on the agenda. I do see that Mayo Clinic was also mentioned. However, I do take exception to the comment that Mayo provides minimal service in Wisconsin. Mayo is a major player in the northwestern part of this state. Eau Claire is a major hospital, emergency care and clinic provider. There are hospitals in Barron, Menomonie, Osseo, and Bloomer. Clinics in small towns including Chetek. There are significant state of Wisconsin employees in this part of the state: UW Eau Claire, Transportation Department in Eau Claire, UW EC - Barron County all with active employees and there are many retirees who live or have settled in the area. Please be sure that Mayo Clinic availability continues to be provided in northwestern Wisconsin. Thank you for your consideration.

Elton E. Waack  
Member ID [REDACTED]



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
Department of Employee Trust Funds  
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SECRETARY

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July 15, 2022

Elton Waack  
[REDACTED]

MID: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Waack:

Thank you for your email regarding WEA Trust's exit from the Group Health Insurance Program (GHIP). WEA Trust has been a strong partner to the Department of Employee Trust Funds (ETF) and the Group Insurance Board (Board), and we were saddened to learn of their departure.

ETF recognizes that Mayo Clinic Health System (MCHS), while limited in their overall Wisconsin footprint, plays a significant role in care in the northwestern part of the state, and I apologize if the remarks regarding MCHS in the Board materials did not state that clearly.

Since our health insurance benefits are fully insured, ETF and the Board do not directly control any of the contracts that health plans have with health systems. Because of this, we cannot require that any particular health system is included or excluded. However, we have discussed several concerns about provider availability with the health plans who participate in our programs, and we are optimistic that we will be able to ensure continuity of care for our members through new and existing plan offerings.

All new and updated health plan networks will be provided to the Board for their review and approval at the August 17, 2022, Board meeting. Our Board memos will directly address what availability there is for key provider groups. ETF will also be hosting several webinar opportunities for current WEA Trust members to help them learn more about which plans will be available in their areas and how they might meet provider network needs. Information will be available on [the ETF website](#) in the coming months, and the webinars will take place during open enrollment, which runs from September 26 to October 21, 2022.

Thank you, again, for reaching out to express your concerns. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me by email at [Renee.Walk@etf.wi.gov](mailto:Renee.Walk@etf.wi.gov).

Sincerely,

Renee Walk  
Programs & Policy Unit Director

Elton Waack  
July 15, 2022  
Page 2

Office of Strategic Health Policy  
Department of Employee Trust Funds